

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

AMONG THE CLUBS.

What the Various Feminine Organizations Are Planning.

With the exception of those constantly busy organizations, the women's political clubs, which stop not for heat or cold, the club season has not yet opened. Societies have not begun to rustle in its well-made gowns up the steps of the Waldorf; the Professional Woman's League, though perennially active, has not entered upon its distinctive Winter work; the Press Club is not yet engrossed in the giving of teas, the Twelfth Night Club has not begun to entertain distinguished dramatic visitors, and altogether there is a conspicuous lack of energy among the feminine organizations. The first of October, however, will find all this changed, and the women who really deserve the proud title of club woman—she who belongs to ten or twelve organizations—will find her mornings, afternoons and nights well occupied.

Societies, conservative mother of clubs, will not depart from its usual custom in regard to meetings. On the first and third Mondays of every month, from the beginning of October until June, the members will meet at the Waldorf. On the first Monday the social meeting will be held, which means luncheon, papers, discussions, music and the like. On the third Monday there will be the business meeting, the first part of which no more outsider can ever describe, and the second part of which is remarkably like the social meeting. This is the season, by the way, for the great triennial struggle for office. Mrs. Helmholtz, who is serving her third term as president, will, by the laws of the society, be ineligible for re-election, and as the position is always eagerly sought, there will be an exciting midwinter campaign.

The Woman's Press Club will begin its Saturday afternoon tea again in October, holding them once a fortnight instead of once a month, as heretofore.

The Press Club is the only club which proposes an important innovation. It has established a committee on protection, with a young lawyer as chairman. This committee will investigate all the professional grievances of woman writers which are reported to it, and expects to strike terror to the soul of the manuscript-losing editor and the slow-paying publisher.

On Tuesday and Thursday mornings beginning with October 9, Miss Adele Field will hold classes in parliamentary law at the Berkeley Lyceum. On Monday mornings at the same place Mrs. Runkle will give talks on current events. On Wednesday mornings Miss Field will give lessons in advanced parliamentary usages. On Friday mornings, from October 23, she will give lessons in political economy.

The Professional Woman's League has innumerable classes and committees for the members. On the afternoon of the third Monday of each month it holds a social meeting. On Thursday afternoons the dramatic and literary committees alternate in giving entertainments.

The Woman's Auxiliary to the West End Republican Club will continue to meet on Friday afternoons at 3 o'clock at the Hotel Endicott. This is one of the few clubs which is really engaged in active political work.

The Society for Political Study begins its meetings on the first Tuesday in October in the rooms of the Theosophical Society on Madison avenue.

The Twelfth Night Club will resume its afternoon receptions on the second Tuesday in October.

On Tuesday, November 10, the New York Federation of Woman's Clubs will hold its annual meeting in Buffalo. The sessions will last four days. Among the papers which are to be read are the following: "The Comparative Study of Literature," by Mrs. Barrett Montgomery, of Rochester; "The New Study of History," as seen in the Work of the Organization of Daughters," by Mrs. Horatio C. King, of Brooklyn; "The Teaching of Science in the Public Schools," by Dr. Ida C. Bender, of Buffalo; "The Civic Side of Club Life," by Mrs. Heron, of Chicago; "Scientific Study of Philanthropy," by Miss Mary Cutler, of Albany; "Classical Study in Clubs, with Reference to Forming Style, and Finding the Value and Significance of Language," by Mrs. Miriam Mason Greeley, of New York.

House Hunting Made Easy.

House hunting for other people is a new and original occupation that first suggested itself to a clever Philadelphia woman because of her own difficulty in finding the sort of a domicile. She has now perfected her arrangements with real estate dealers and is prepared to hunt houses on commission. She has an office in a central part of town, where she listens with infinite patience to the requirements of her customers, and for the small fee of a dollar she undertakes to find what is wanted. It is to be found inside of the city limits. The major part of her profit is gained from the real estate agents, who deem her commission well earned.

An Emergency Dish.

From time immemorial eggs have been the resort of the housekeeper surprised by unexpected guests. An excellent way to serve them is with a cream sauce. After the eggs are hard boiled, dash cold water over them, and when cooled, take off the shells. The cream sauce should be seasoned with chopped parsley or with curry powder.

Useful Cheesecloth.

The uses of cheesecloth are infinite. One of its greatest advantages is its cheapness. It is so cheap that having served its purpose it is thrown away. It is excellent as a strainer—better for jelly than the old-time flannel bag—and it has no equal as a dust or cleaning cloth.

WOMAN AS AN INVENTOR.

The American woman has been in evidence at the Patent Office for many years. She has not waited for her "new" sister, but has placed herself on record as the possessor of an inventive genius of a high order almost with the opening of the doors of the Patent Office. A catalogue of her earnest endeavors in various branches mechanical indicate the alert mentality of the American woman.

The first patent granted to a woman was in 1809, when Mary Kels, of Connecticut, was given one on a machine for weaving straw with silk or thread. This was probably one of the best ever put on the market, for every part was simple and accurately adjusted. Since that time hundreds of patents have been issued to women for every style of skillful invention.

The first submarine telescope and lamp was originated by Sarah P. Mather in 1845. The model of this clever invention occupies a prominent position in one of the large glass cases in the Patent Office devoted exclusively to women inventors. It is made of highly polished brass, two feet in length, and has powerful lenses. Now that submarine warfare is practised this device will command greater attention than ever before.

In the same glass case with the telescope are fac similes of machines for carrying clinders under locomotives, instead of allowing them to fly into the eyes of suffering travellers when the windows are opened; and improvements in locomotive wheels to assist in going up an inclined plane. Here, also, are lifeboats and life preservers, propellers for boats, and devices for raising sunken vessels, dredging machines and improved breech-loading firearms.

Another compartment closely resembles a doll's house, because it is filled with a variety of models for household furniture. Noticeable among them is a curious bed, with a cradle attached to the right side—excellent arrangement for a baby with pronounced kicking tendencies. The maternal instinct is certainly strong, even in the busy feminine hearts, for everything that can possibly conduce to an infant's bodily comfort has been given thought by some woman.

The article of dress that has apparently engaged the greatest attention of women inventors is the all-important corset. There is a startling array of them. Corsets for the woman with a slender figure and for her suffering sister with a superabundance of adipose tissue, that must be adroitly concealed, are in evidence. Surely there is no possible shape that has not been amply provided with the present necessary adjunct to the feminine wardrobe. Since the advent of the "bike" numerous bifurcated garments have been thrust upon an unoffending public. Though a few are excellent and greatly facilitate wheeling, the greater number of them do not enhance the attractive appearance of the fair rider.

FROU-FROU.

A gold punch bowl, with one's monogram in diamonds and rubies, is considered nowadays an absolute essential to every woman's happiness.

One is speculating as to the disposition to be made of Mrs. Hicks-Lord's priceless china—the violet cups and saucers and the pretty rose bowl, which were features of her tea room.

To be really and truly "well," which is the ambition of every one whose pocketbook outbalances his brains, one must have servants who have been in the family "for years and years."

Absolutely no bric-a-brac of any sort, kind or condition, beyond a few ivory miniatures on a Louis XIV. table, glass-covered, is seen in Mrs. Leon Marie's drawing room, which is severely simple and elegant.

The Princess Charles of Denmark has a priceless collection of lace handkerchiefs—according to an English newspaper. All are of Hooton lace, in different designs, with the Princess's monogram and crown introduced.

Nearly every woman of the grand monde keeps a scrapbook of newspaper clippings which have reference to her gowns, her entertainments and her comings and goings—it is whispered that Mrs. Oliver Belmont has not only one book, but a dozen.

It is said that Mark Hanna's sixteen-year-old daughter, Ruth, rides horseback in emancipated fashion, sitting astride and wearing a bifurcated habit. She is an excellent horsewoman and a little distance looks like a spirited boy in her fawn-colored knickerbockers, gaiters and cutaway coat.

Mrs. Van Rensselaer Cruger, at her Summer home on Long Island, takes pride in being a simple gardener. She has this Summer almost perfected her plans for an Italian garden—a little plot on the estate where she proposes to have a white pillared temple for a tea house and a maze of gorgeous, sweet-scented blooms.

Mrs. John Mackay, among other almost priceless possessions, owns her set of sables. She has a cloak valued at \$15,000. It consists of 5,000 small skins. The Empress Eugenie has the most expensive wrap of this kind in existence. It was sent to her on her coronation and cost \$400,000, though it weighs only sixteen ounces.

An English flower garden that has won more than local fame is that of the Countess of Warwick. It has a "Shakespeare border" where she has collected all the shrubs, flowers, vegetables and trees mentioned by Shakespeare to the number of 200. Then she has a "sentimental" patch, each plant in it having been set out by a friend. On every bush in this plot there is a tag bearing an appropriate verse from some poet.

Mrs. Calvin Brier's afternoons at Newport are as much a feature of social life as her more formal receptions are of the Washington Winters. She is "at home" on Mondays, informally, she says, but, according to the popular notion, with a good deal of ceremony. She always has music on these occasions, although she has not this season given as elaborate entertainments as she did last year, when a whole acrobatic troupe, a trained dog and a fortune teller served to amuse her guests between their cups of tea.



CONVERSAZIONE.

Just about now the careful housewife is re-papering and painting, beating carpets and uncovering furniture. Mattings are being torn up and light-blue summer papers are covered under rich, deep, warm hues. For dining rooms imitation leather, embossed in heraldic designs, or Persian scenes, will be the season's highest novelty, while Lincrusta Walton is more in demand than ever for panels, dados and moldings. The most perfect reproduction of old tapestries, where even the attitudes are copied with the closest fidelity, is one of the popular fancies of the day.

On the occasion of some social function the old-fashioned plan is often the most difficult object of artistic decoration. A useful hint may be found in the following directions. Bank up the lower part with palms, so that you have a good foundation of green to work upon. Then tack four thin wires from the top of the mirror to the bottom, fastening them securely at both ends. Twine some vine in thick profusion up each wire, and on top of the glass festoon greens to the ceiling.

A new and expensive high novelty is white taffeta embroidery, which, like many other good things, may be fashioned with care and skill at home. It is nothing more or less than white taffeta silk, pierced as though it were cambric, and worked in the same way. A black silk gown plentifully trimmed with it becomes easily one of those chic black and white toilets which beggar description.

If you find that your corsets tire you, a hint from the mysteries of the French woman's bodice will be of service. The majority of American girls increase themselves in their corsets at their first toilet of the day. Not so with Madame. An English girl, which is barely a wide belt, suffices for her morning toilet; later, this is discarded for a perfectly fitting corset, made to order, for the shopping tour. For the afternoon tea gown, the Empire girdle is again called into use, and the evening décolleté has its own short, supple corset. Thus, although a French woman's figure is of the fashion plate order, she suffers less discomfort than corset-wearing women of many other nationalities.

With the passing of the sailor hat and the shirt waist, the discussion of furs becomes not untimely. Ermine promises to lead all the others in popularity, and without doubt in price. It is extremely becoming, delightfully regal and beloved by both young and old women. It is, of course, an evening fur, and will be seen only on the rarest occasions in the daytime.

From the stiff leather belt of the early summer we have come by slow degrees to the narrow ribbon waistbands, finished in the back with small bows and short ends. The only rival to this arrangement is the folded corset-let belt, finished back and front with long buckles of silver or gold.

With the high collars, which is announced as a positive revival of the coming winter, all sorts of innovations and pretty ornamentations will be introduced. Flowers and bows and plumes will come into fashion with a rush, and we may expect to see the ugly fringe appearing once more on the back of the neck as a shield to the high Marie Antoinette style. Flowers will no longer nestle modestly in the shadow of the ear; they will be worn in half wreaths, directly in front and in full view.

The piano lamp has been declared a nuisance, possibly because its presence was too frequent. At one time there was such a craze for it that immense umbrellas shades of striking colors delayed every room and put everything else out of countenance. Like the corset, except without which no room was considered complete, it is threatened with banishment. In its place the banquet lamp, with medium-sized shade, modestly shedding its glow on table or piano, makes the highest bid for favor.

How's This for a Woodland Gown?

Not the least interesting feature of "An Enemy to the King" is the gown which Miss Virginia Harned wears in the third and fourth acts. So remarkable is it, indeed, that critics have been temporarily turned from discussing the dramatic merits to comment upon it. It is one which Miss Harned, a damsel of high degree, travelling through pathless woods and over trackless hills, produces from one of two trunks which she thoughtfully carries with her on her journey. It is a clinging princess frock, made with a train. It is the palest of pink, and over it is worn a sort of long apron, a sixteenth century affair, which falls from the shoulders down both in front and back. This is of satin, richly embroidered in silver. It is confined at the waist by a jeweled girdle. Gems flash from the lady's hair and adorn her fingers when she wears this dress. And Miss Harned wears it in the deserted chateau, where she is practically "camping out" with a band of fascinating Huguenot outlaws, and she wears it when her palfray—ladies always ride palfrays in those days—is bearing her on a wild midnight ride—all with the cheeriest unconcern concerning its after history. Bicycle dresses were unknown, also, at the close of the sixteenth century, but there are those who have thought during this week that the anachronism of putting short skirts on a French lady in 1585 would be no worse than the incongruity of dressing a fugitive for her flight in a pink party dress.

WOMAN ASTRIDE UNIQUE COSTUME.

The question whether or no it is better for a woman to ride astride is a back number. For some time past physicians and athletes have agreed in advocating the use of the perfectly balanced saddle and an equal adjustment of weight for women as well as men.

It is no longer a question of health or style, but merely of convention, and the bicycle has forced even this issue. The girl who rides a wheel will not long consent to the discomfort and unsafety of placing her entire anatomy on one side of her horse.

The difficulty from the first has been to find a costume for this common sense method of riding that would be at once pretty, useful and modest. Bloomers have been treated with disdain and divided skirts were bulky and ungraceful.

It remained for a pretty young society girl to solve the problem by evolving a garment at once practical and fetching.

No sooner was the new riding habit sent home from the tailor's than it was dubbed by this pretty, blond-haired daughter of the elite and worn during the most fashionable hours on the avenue and in the Park.

Any bright day this daring equestrienne may be seen, between the hours of 3 and 5 o'clock, cantering gayly over the bridge paths, scarcely differing in appearance from any other fashionable girl on horseback.

It is only when directly facing the fearless one that you observe that apparently her skirt floats down on both sides of the horse, and is cut princess shape rather than with skirt and bodice.

A few days ago a reporter chanced to be crossing a bridge just as the horse of the fearless one stumbled, and she was obliged to dismount to make sundry investigations. Then were the intricacies of the unique costume revealed to curious eyes. The princess proved to be only a long, tight-fitting skirt, open front and back to the waist, and weighted to keep it from flying in the wind.

Under the long coat, which was just the length of a riding habit, appeared a pair of flannel knee breeches, tight-fitting about the knees, and for ten inches up the leg; then the flannels extended until within a few inches of the waist line.

The boots were military style, reaching the knees, and fitted with tiny spurs. With the costume was worn a small derby.

When the dashing little maid mounted her spirited steed without assistance the mechanism of the costume was fully revealed. With the reins in her left hand and the left foot in the stirrup she bounded into place as light as a feather. A flannel foot and shapely leg appeared in view for a second, and then the long skirt slipped into place without rearranging. No cowboy of the Western plains could have accomplished the act with greater freedom or grace.

Once in the saddle and speeding swiftly away there was not a glimpse for the public of the time boots or the chic trousers. Conventions, correct and modest, this novel equestrienne outfit bids fair to become the accepted style of dress.

BEAUTY'S EYEBROWS.

The eyebrow has not failed to secure fame in prose and poetry, and the eyebrow immortalized by Shakespeare's lover "Sighing like a furnace with a word belied made to his mistress's eyelids" was doubtless long, straight, arching, narrow and delicately pencilled, accepted by the Greeks as the perfect feminine eyebrow.

There are various opinions on the subject, and it is conceded that the Greek eyebrow is quite in accord with the conception of mere physical beauty in women. Like the roselined mouth, it does not indicate the highest order of intellect, and the arch is expressive always of greater sensibility and greater strength of character.

Scant growth of the eyebrows invariably denotes lack of vitality, and external applications are useless in promoting or retarding a growth until the general health improves; on the contrary, heavy, thick eyebrows indicate a strong constitution and great physical endurance. They are not beautiful on a woman's face, however much they may signify either mental or bodily vigor, and when they are not only heavy, but droop and cast at the nose, they are disagreeable, and are said to accompany an insouciant and peevish nature. Fortunately, with a pair of small tweezers these quite superfluous hairs may be removed, and let us hope the traits they are supposed to indicate disappear with them.

Romantic women naturally have a very well-defined arch in the center of the eyebrow, while a scowl of humor is indicated in the arch nearer the nose.

Long, drooping eyebrows, lying wide apart, indicate an amiable disposition.

Where the eyebrows are lighter in color than the hair, the indications are lack of vitality and great sensibility.

Faintly-defined eyebrows placed high above the nose are signs of indolence and weakness. The toilet of the eyebrows is simple. The hair of the eyebrows can be trained to lie close and smooth to the skin, thus resembling the pencilled arch we read of so often, by the aid of a tiny little brush manufactured for the purpose and for sale at all shops dealing in articles for the toilet.

Where the eyebrows are too broad and inclined to be bushy, they should be daily trained by brushing, and will, in a short time, show an immense improvement.

When the hair falls out of the eyebrows, use the following ointment, which has never failed in my experience to arrest the disease and cause a new growth:

Red yaseline, 3 ounces.
Tincture Cantharides, Jamaica rum, ½ ounce each.
Oreganum, 6 drops.
Glycerine, ¼ ounce.
Oil rosemary, 5 drops.

Mix all thoroughly; apply twice daily with the eyebrow brush.

For continuous use where the eyebrows are healthy, a little glycerine and rose water will give the delicate line emphasis and brilliancy. Very black eyebrows give the face an intense and searching expression; when natural they accompany a passionate temperament.

Very light eyebrows rarely are seen on strongly intellectual faces, although the color of the eyebrows is not accepted slugs as denoting lack of intelligence; the form gives the key to the faculties and their direction.

Red eyebrows denote great fervor and ambition; brown a medium between the red and black.

Never attempt to dye or stain the eyebrows with any liquid coloring. The only cosmetic successfully used for darkening the eyebrows is the Far Indian, either in pencil form, which is the more convenient, or applied from the porcelain tablet.

MARINET HUBBARD AYER.

WOMEN OF NOTE.

Make Stump Speeches, Win Fame and Fortune as Farmers.

Roslyn, L. I., has a woman farmer who raises such plebeian vegetables as carrots and turnips for the market. She is Mrs. Taber Willets, and her place is the pride of the natives. She is a practical agriculturist, and makes farming pay to a remarkable degree. It is encouraging to know, however, that her strictly practical ideas do not prevent her from surrounding her vegetable garden with a border of box, in which sweet peas and wallflowers bloom.

Li Hung Chang will be interested to know that the missionaries whose work in his country he commented so gracefully the other morning are to have a new ally. Miss Martha Lebus, known to China as a "missionary druggist," Miss Lebus is a graduate of the College of Pharmacy in Philadelphia, and for two years has been connected with Christ Hospital. She is now training a young woman assistant, who after she receives a diploma from the College of Pharmacy, will work in China with Miss Lebus. Both of them will be under the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States.

In Syracuse the "woman's edition" as a philanthropic money-raising scheme has given place to the "woman's train." The Woman's Christian Association planned an excursion to the St. Lawrence, and the train which bore the excursionists out of the city was completely "manned" by women. The wife of the Mayor, Mrs. James McGuire, acted as engineer. Women were conductors, and every set of conductors had a chaperon! That was an innovation in railroad travel which delighted the passengers. On the steamer which conveyed the excursionists down the St. Lawrence women formed the crew.

One of the most attractive figures in Washington society is Miss Winthrop Gary, who won at the World's Fair the highest medal and diploma for a musical composition which she called "The Promise of Hesperus to Columbus." She is by birth a Texan, and she has brought into her Washington life not only her musical skill to win her renown, but a healthy love of outdoor life which makes her even more popular. She is an expert horsewoman and also a bicyclist of no mean skill. She dances well, plays tennis and swims, and is altogether a pleasing example of the "all-around" modern girl.

Miss Jane Stone, a young woman of Philadelphia, has discovered a new occupation. She has gone into the oil business. East Tennessee has opened up some petroleum fields, and Miss Stone has leased some of them. It is her purpose to drill ten wells before Fall, and she has contracted for 100,000 feet of lumber for derricks.

Mother.

There is a striking resemblance between the word "mother" in almost all languages. Here are fourteen varieties to judge by: Anglo-Saxon, mother; Persian, مادر; Sanskrit, mater; Greek, meter; Italian and Spanish, madre; French, mere; Swedish and Danish, moder; Dutch, moeder; English, mother; Russian, мать; Celtic, mathair; Hebrew, em; Arabic, am.



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ACCESSORIES FOR THE TAILOR-MAID.

The tailor-made girl of the Autumn of '96 has her specialties in every smallest direction. The woman who hoped for comfort in the matter of neck gear will find herself doomed to disappointment. The turned down collar of the Summer shirt-waist, which was a bugbear to the short-necked woman, is replaced by one at least an inch higher, that must stand erect and stiff without bend or crumple, slightly overlapping just under the chin.

Pietresque four-in-hands are completely out, expelled in favor of the stiff, narrow cravat, which must be tied by the wearer. Scotch spud gloves in heavy knitted cloth, and the fashionable contrasting shades of green and blue, are must in vogue, and are to be had in the heavy twisted silks that can best withstand wear and tear.

Only heavy glove kid gloves are worn by the girl who understands and appreciates the demands of the tailor gown. The newest street glove is heavily knitted, and the favorite color is still the dull, brownish red. Its chief novelty lies in the manner of its fastening. The tiny buttons of former years are replaced by huge pearl ones as big as ten-cent pieces. A new-fangled unstapler, designed for the old-fashioned woman, is replaced by one at least an inch higher, that must stand erect and stiff without bend or crumple, slightly overlapping just under the chin. A single pull, and the glove seems to open of its own volition. Soft dogskin kid that shapes itself most easily to the foot and gives with every step, threatens to make all desire for patent leather a thing of the past. The pointed toe is gradually merging into a round, sensible tip, becoming to most feet and calculated to rejoice the heart of the slenderly built maid. With the colder weather, button boots, cut rather higher than formerly, will replace all demand for gaiters and low shoes, particularly among those women who pride themselves on the dainty beauty of their ankles.

The Autumn woman who can afford the luxury will carry one of the new elephant leather combination pocketbooks and card cases. Elephant leather is rough and brown, a soft, flesh brown, and card case fashioned of it are usually finished with gold-washed corner pieces, silver being pronounced too dull for its somewhat quiet coloring.

Nothing will so materially interfere with her trim appearance as a shabby, badly rolled umbrella. This should be one of the most important of her accessories. The very latest and most fashionable one in the market has a flattened mother-of-pearl or burnt ivory handle, with a silver filigree covering.

Jewelry is for the most part abjured by the tailor-made girl. She glories in the trim simplicity that makes precious stones out of place. She permits herself only necessary adjuncts, not ornaments. A collar button is worn if need be, and a watch to note the right of time. A single black ribbon, with an antique seal at one end, is her fob or excellence.

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